

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 /005 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/RDBELT/AML

APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/RDBELT

DOL-JMELVIN (PHONE)

----- 097357

R 030010Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - BLACK LUNG BENEFITS

1. SINCE ITALY HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF FOREIGN BLACK LUNG CLAIMANTS,IT ALSO GENERATES THE LARGEST NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS REQUESTED THE DEPT TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO ADDRESSEES.

2. A TEN TO TWELVE MONTH PERIOD IS NORMAL FOR PROCESSING A FOREIGN CLAIM FROM INCEPTION TO FINAL DECISION. IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL DELAY INVOLVED IN ARRANGING FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL EXAMS, MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED FOR A TWO WAY MAIL EXCHANGE OF FORMS, INFORMATION, AND THE RESULTS OF THE MEDICAL LAB TESTS AND EXAMS. INSTRUCTIONS OR MEDICAL REPORTS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE ARE SENT OUTSIDE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DOL FOR TRANSLATION. WHEN ALL THE REQUIRED INFORMATION

IS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, DOL REVIEWS THE CLAIMS AND MAKES
A RECOMMENDED DETERMINATION. CLAIM IS THEN SUBMITTED
TO A THIRD PARTY FOR FINAL ADJUDICATION. DOL DOES NOT
RPT NOT MAKE FINAL DECISION. DOL THEN TAKES THE
NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES TO HAVE PAYMENTS MADE.

3. FYI - MANY CLAIMANTS HAVE SENT LETTERS TO INDIVIDUALS
IN THE UNITED STATES ASKING THEM TO INQUIRE ON THEIR
BEHALF REGARDING STATUS OF THEIR CLAIMS. HOWEVER PRIVACY
ACT PREVENTS DOL FROM RELEASING ANY INFORMATION TO
THIRD PARTY IN THIS REGARD. UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE NO
SHORT CUTS IN THIS PROCESS AND POST'S REQUEST FOR
SPEEDIER ACTION BRING LIMITED OR NO RESULTS. END FYI

4. POSTS MAY INFORM CONCERNED PARTIES RE ABOVE INFORMATION.
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